6/8/70

Dear Harold,

Received your mailing of 6/6 today with the several letters. My mail today was unusually heavy, with mostly good though some "bad." At any rate, it has me running around like a chicken without a head. So, I'll take your letters (which I've read in detail) and respond chronologically as I go through them again.

6/1 to me: When there, I'll discuss with you the use of my Specter stuff in my book, for your suggestions which might help me get the best out of what I have...will also talk about exec sessions when there.

On skull matter, etc., we just cannot know what happened to these things before they were discovered, no matter how soon after shots. New photos I just got show so much activity down there, with scores of little kids. I think any arguements we make over the significance of the positions of these pieces of matter puts us in a vulnerable position unless we can document that they were not moved prior to discovery.

Letter to Rhoads: One of the more amusing things I now think of is a view of poor Dr. Rhoads warily looking through his morning mail hoping not to find a letter from Harold Weisberg. Nevertheless, I admire these letters. I am sending my proposed letter to Rhoads tomorrow, with the addition of a request for list of all 399 base photos prior to loss of fragment.

6/4 to me: Enclosed is the only clip I could get on this Rankin thing. It doesn't have the quote I mentioned from another article, which was accurate. These hard hats scare me for many reasons.

Whether or not you are aware (and I suspect you are), there is hardly anything you could have said to me which would have been more reassuring than for me to have my hair as long as I please when we are in court. You should know that being at the trial, if not testifying at it, is one of my great aspirations.

You can fill me in better on what to do there when I am there. Will propose a date soon, and probably call you to verify and make arrangements.

Lifton pix: I just got 80 contact prints of really good quality made from Couch and Weigman frames. They show much, most of which was taken earlier than the photos now around. Mostly, they are a good time clock. There are some strange things about them.

I have weather bureau records for Love Field on 11/22/63 which list winds between 13 and 17 mph. Films also show strong winds, one especially at time of head shot. As for later shot, certainly not into head.

No other comments, really.

As for Lifton, regardless of what I know of him and his nature, and not wishing to understate the issue, the only two adjectives which enter into my mind right now describing him are "cheap bastard." I told him it would cost me $12 to get copy of his tape, the

cost being for equipment rental. For area prices, it is nor unreasonable. It actually cost me nothing, being able to get a recorder for only two hours. I don't fell wrong in having told him that price since a) otherwise he'd have to pay $185 and b) I will be buying a large quantity of photos from him for which he is overcharging. This includes 80 feet of Nix, enlargemtns from Weigman-Couch, and Bond slides. So, now Dave is spending more money trying to find other copies of the tape than he would wind up paying if he'd subtract $12 from my costs, upon which I will insist or he does not get the tape.

But good stuff from Wecht, who is now Coroner for Allegheny county. To my surprise, he went contrary to everything Nichols told me about lung bruises. But he told me one thing which is a killer. The parietal pleura must be violated for chest tubes to be inserted. Humes testified explicitly that he examined it and it was completely intact(2H363). Now, does what I developed on the chest tubes come into new light? Remeber the conflict between Humes and Parkland docs as to whether the tubes were fully inserted, the docs being right in saying full insertion? Thus, the parietal pleura was violated and Humes did, I now firmly belief, lie about this material point. You see, while I certainly never felt Humes was covering up a wound to the exterior chest, he most certainly did cover up one of the interior chest, the pleura.

Really must go. Stay well.

Howard

cc Dick